(ix) Training of existing security personnel refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security set up.

(x) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities.

Quality of Coal by CIL

2623. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large quantity of coal produced by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is of low grade;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of low grade coal produced by CIL during 2008-09;

(c) whether as a result of low grade coal, several power plants are importing coal under Open General Licence (OGL);

(d) if so, the steps being taken by CIL to improve the quality of coal in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) Quality of coal produced by Coal India Limited is largely of lower grades because of the reasons that coal deposit in India is having inherently high ash content due to Drift origin. The share of lower grade namely "E" & "F" Grade of coal produced by Coal India Limited during 2008-09 was 275.60 million tonnes, out of total production of 403.73 million tonnes, equivalent to about 68%.

(c) Non-coking coal is imported by Power Plants and other industries on account of various factors including non availability of required quantity of low ash non-coking coal in the country, environmental consideration, cost and locational advantages etc.

(d) The following steps have been taken by Coal India Limited to improve the quality of coal:-

(i) Selective mining of bands of >1 meter thickness

(ii) Appropriate positioning of Over Burden and coal benches to avoid contamination,

(iii) Scrapping/cleaning of coal benches before blasting.

(iv) Installation of metal detectors/magnetic separators over running conveyors before loading coal.

(v) Deployment of Surface Miners for Selective mining by subsidiary coal companies of Coal India Limited to improve quality of coal.

(vi) Establishment of well equipped laboratories at all the projects for regular quality assessment.

(vii) Shale-picking, at mine face, stocks & loading points/sidings to address the issue of consistent quality.

In addition to the above as a long term strategy it has been decided that all coal especially from the Open Cast Mines will be washed before supply to consumers located away from pithead. Washeries for this purpose are being developed by Coal India Limited at subsidiary companies on Build Operate and Maintain basis.

Allocation of coal to Shri Singaji Thermal Power Project

†2624. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central approval is to be granted for allocation 6 MTPA coal to Shri Singaji Thermal Power Project of Khandwa district of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof any by when the approval is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) Malwa Thermal Power Plant (re-named as Shri Singaji Thermal Power Project) was authorized Letter of Assurance (LoA) by the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) in its meeting held on 11.5.2006 for its proposed 1000 Mega Watt Thermal Power Project. This Letter of Assurance was issued on 18th September 2006. In terms of the decision of the Standing Linkage Committee (Long-term) held on 12.11.2008, they did not submit the Commitment Guarantee (CG) to Coal India Limited/ South Eastern Coalfields Limited and initially sought exemption from submission of Commitment Guarantee. This request was examined and it was informed to them on 17.6.2009 that there is no provision for exemption from submission of Commitment Guarantee. Subsequently, they sought extension of time for submission of Commitment Guarantee and meanwhile on 7th August, 2009, they have submitted a revised application for setting up 2 X 600 MW project, which will be placed before the Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term) for consideration, subject to recommendations of Ministry of Power.

Fire at WCL

2625. SHRI RANJITSINH VIJAYSINH MOHITE PATIL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some mines of Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL) specifically at Nagpur area, have caught fire for decades and shortage of coal have been reported from this area;

(b) if so, the number of such sites and since when alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the steps taken to extinguish these fires and prevent recurrence of such incidents; and

(d) the details of the investigation for shortage of coal in Nagpur area of WCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) Spontaneous heating is a natural phenomenon in coal mining. Details of incidents of fire

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.